



# Weekly recap

## USA

The week in the United States was marked by mixed macroeconomic data, high market volatility, and significant developments on the political and geopolitical fronts. In terms of employment, the economy generated 130,000 jobs in January, twice the expected number, and the unemployment rate fell to 4.3%. However, the annual revision subtracted 862,000 jobs from 2025, leaving a monthly average of just 15,000, which raised doubts about the real strength of the labor market after methodological adjustments. Even so, there are no clear signs of an abrupt slowdown.

Inflation moderated, standing at 2.4% year-on-year in January (down from 2.7%), while core inflation fell to 2.5%. With commodities stable for the third consecutive month, the market began to discount a third rate cut by the Federal Reserve in the second half of 2026. The labor cost index rose to 0.7% quarterly in Q4 2025 and 3.4% for the year, reflecting contained wage pressures. In terms of activity, retail sales stagnated in December and existing home sales fell 8.4% month-on-month in January, although median prices rose 0.9% to \$396,800.

In markets, the narrative shifted from *AI-phoria* to *AI-phobia*, reflecting fears of disruption from artificial intelligence in both software and wealth management. *Value* and small-cap stocks outperformed high-growth stocks, while emerging markets outperformed the United States. In credit, Alphabet issued a £1 billion 100-year bond to finance its expansion in AI, with demand ten times higher than supply, which some interpret as signs of exuberance.

In economic policy, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said he does not expect a rapid reduction in the Fed's balance sheet, even under the eventual leadership of Kevin Warsh.

On the other hand, we highlight that the Congressional Budget Office projected a \$1.9 trillion deficit for 2026. Furthermore, the United States signed an agreement with Taiwan that reduces tariffs and contemplates \$250 billion in investments in semiconductors. In addition, the Treasury granted a license to support energy exploration in Venezuela.

On the geopolitical front, Washington sent a second aircraft carrier group to the Middle East to put pressure on Iran, while facing internal tensions over funding for the Department of Homeland Security and 25% tariffs on Canada, which President Trump has promised to veto if Congress attempts to limit them.

## EUROPE

Economically, employment in the Eurozone grew by 0.3%, maintaining moderate expansion that supports expectations of stable ECB rates. At the same time, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz warned that Europe is losing competitiveness in artificial intelligence to the United States and China due to excessive regulations and low dynamism in recent decades. In the markets, stock exchanges hit record highs in the middle of the week (with the EURO STOXX 50 exceeding 6,100 points), driven by solid results such as those of Siemens, although they closed the week with slight declines and pressure on banks such as Deutsche Bank.

Finally, on the political front, Emmanuel Macron proposed a common European debt to finance strategic investments, an initiative rejected by Germany that highlights the differences within the bloc.

## UNITED KINGDOM

The UK economy grew 0.1% quarter-on-quarter in Q4 2025, below expectations, driven by production (+1.2%) and manufacturing (+0.9%) following the normalization of the automotive sector. However, services stagnated and construction fell 2.1%. In annual terms, GDP grew 1.0% in the quarter. Throughout 2025, the economy expanded 1.3%, slightly above 2024 but below expectations, in a context of higher taxes, trade tensions, and business caution.

## ASIA

In Japan, producer prices rose 2.3% year-on-year in January, the lowest rate in 20 months, with moderation in several industrial sectors and a monthly increase of 0.2%.

In China, industrial deflation continued to slow, with the PPI falling 1.4% year-on-year, while consumer inflation remained stable. In addition, authorities urged banks to reduce their exposure to US Treasury bonds to diversify risks in the face of market volatility.



**BALLESTAS GROUP**  
PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

CRNCY	Index	Level	Week	YTD	YTD (usd)	1 Year
<b>Equity Market</b>						
<b>AMERICAS</b>			<b>-1,55</b>	<b>0,06</b>	<b>0,06</b>	<b>14,49</b>
USD	DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	49.500,93	-1,20	3,14	3,14	13,38
USD	S&P 500 INDEX	6.836,17	-1,36	-0,02	-0,02	14,32
USD	NASDAQ COMPOSITE	22.546,67	-2,09	-2,95	-2,95	15,77
BRL	BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	186.451,71	1,91	15,72	21,57	50,96
ARS	S&P Merval TR ARS	2.816.128,00	-5,41	-7,72	-4,16	24,76
CLP	S&P/CLX IPSA (CLP) TR	10.897,74	-2,79	3,97	8,55	50,70
MXN	S&P/BMV IPC	71.448,50	0,90	11,17	16,76	36,34
<b>EUROPE</b>			<b>0,16</b>	<b>2,78</b>	<b>3,99</b>	<b>17,14</b>
EUR	Euro Stoxx 50 Pr	5.985,23	-0,21	3,55	4,78	14,74
GBP	FTSE 100 INDEX	10.446,35	0,74	5,23	6,76	22,19
EUR	DAX INDEX	24.914,88	0,78	1,73	2,76	12,21
EUR	CAC 40 INDEX	8.311,74	0,46	2,00	3,21	7,23
EUR	FTSE MIB INDEX	45.430,62	-0,97	1,40	2,43	29,34
<b>ASIA</b>			<b>-0,63</b>	<b>5,89</b>	<b>7,02</b>	<b>31,88</b>
JPY	NIKKEI 225	56.941,97	1,03	13,12	15,73	47,11
CNY	CSI 300 INDEX	4.660,41	-1,23	0,86	2,09	22,67
HKD	HANG SENG INDEX	26.567,12	-1,70	3,68	3,23	25,86
<b>GLOBAL</b>						
USD	ISHARES MSCI ACWI ETF	145,94	-0,23	3,15	3,15	21,14
USD	MSCI WORLD	4.515,82	-0,25	2,03	2,03	19,44
USD	MSCI EM	1.570,44	4,26	11,90	11,90	45,25
USD	MSCI AC ASIA PACIFIC	257,22	5,76	13,03	13,03	42,88
USD	MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	3.233,06	1,96	19,52	19,52	66,67
<b>Fixed Income</b>						
<b>GLOBAL</b>		<b>1.266,51</b>	<b>0,62</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>11,05</b>
USD	Global Aggregate	509,88	0,99	1,71	1,71	9,65
USD	EM USD Aggregate	1.402,14	0,52	1,10	1,10	11,34
USD	Global High Yield	1.887,51	0,35	1,35	1,35	12,15
<b>Commodities</b>						
USD	BBG Commodity	117,35	-0,52	6,98	6,98	10,95
USD	Oro	5.031,68	1,36	16,55	16,55	71,83
USD	WTI	62,81	-1,16	9,84	9,84	-11,90
USD	Soja	415,66	1,75	8,33	8,33	10,17

Source: Bloomberg. Information as of February 13, 2026, at market close.<sup>th</sup>

Securities offered through Bolton Global Capital, Inc. 579 Main St., Bolton, MA. Member FINRA, SPIC 978-779-5361. Advisory Services offered through Bolton Global Asset Management, a SEC registered Investment advisor. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of Bolton Global Capital/BGAM. All information contained herein is believed to be correct, however Ballestas Group, Bolton Global Capital/BGAM and their respective employees cannot be liable for any errors.